

The National D-Day Museum

America's National World War II Museum

Dr. Gordon "Nick" Mueller, President & CEO

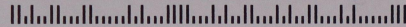


THE NATIONAL
D-DAY MUSEUM
NEW ORLEANS

July 6, 2005

*Mummy
This
Should be
Framed -
maybe
Club*

Mr Charles Gilb
PO Box 21909
Los Angeles, CA 90021-0909



Dear Mr Gilb:

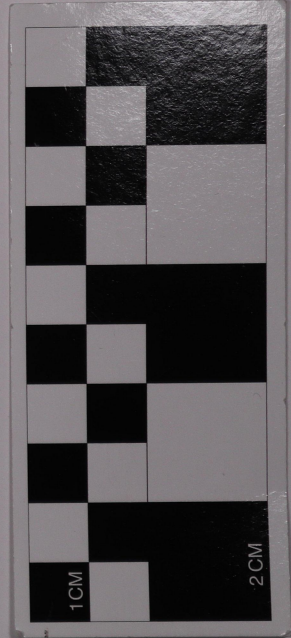
✓ Enclosed you will find an authentic reproduction of a very rare and special document, little seen by Americans since the day it was written.

And yet it is one of the most important documents of the 20th Century.

It is Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's final Order of the Day in Europe in World War II.

It was issued on 8 May 1945 in honor of each U.S. soldier, sailor, airman and Marine of the Allied Expeditionary Forces, celebrating the defeat of Nazi Germany.

And in this, the 60th Anniversary year of VE Day, it remains one of the clearest and most deeply felt expressions of America's belief in freedom, and in our sense that "we were all in this together" until the job was done.



support of our Charter Members if we are to do the job, and do it right!

I am proud to count you among our friends who share my deep belief in the importance of our mission.

But before you decide how much to give, let me set the stage for you in April of 1945 . . .

By late April, the Allied forces knew that the Nazi's reign of tyranny was almost over. Yet in its death throes, the Germans were still dangerous, like a wounded animal.

Then on April 30, Adolf Hitler, holed up in his bunker in Berlin and raving madly at a world that was falling apart all around him, committed suicide.

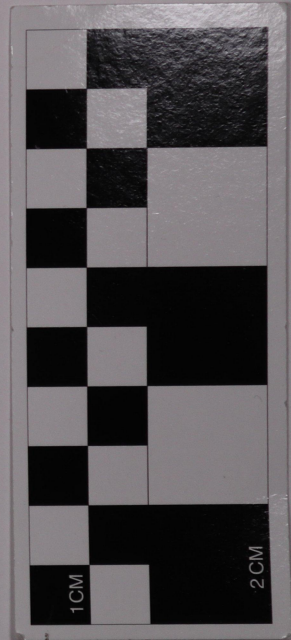
The very next day, units within the German Army, on the verge of being completely destroyed, began to surrender rather than fight to the death on behalf of the "thousand year Reich."

On May 7, the Germans signed an unconditional surrender to the Allied forces. The War in Europe was over.

So Ike drafted a final message to every member of the armed forces involved in that great conflict – to thank them and to acknowledge their role in preserving freedom, not just for us, but for all mankind.

In his last Order of the Day, Ike talked about the astonishing military achievements of our fighting forces under incredibly difficult conditions. He paid tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice, Americans and Allied forces alike.

clear about what motivated us as Americans to fight and win – "a



SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
Public Relations Division

8 MAY 45

This copy has been
transmitted to MOI London
and OWI Washington for
release to Combined U.S.
and Canadian Press and Radio.

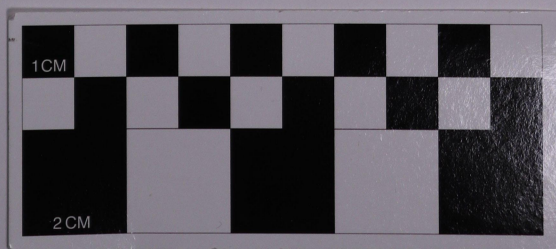
SHAEF RELEASE No. 1453

VICTORY ORDER OF THE DAY

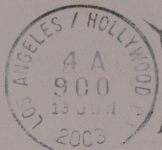
Men and women of the Allied Expeditionary Force :

The crusade on which we embarked in the early summer of 1944 has reached its glorious conclusion. It is my especial privilege, in the name of all Nations represented in this Theatre of War, to commend each of you for valiant performance of duty. Though these words are feeble they come from the bottom of a heart overflowing with pride in your loyal service and admiration for you as warriors. Your accomplishments at sea, in the air, on the ground and in the field of supply, have astonished the world. Even before the final week of the conflict, you had put 5,000,000 of the enemy permanently out of the war. You have taken in stride military tasks so difficult as to be classed by many doubters as impossible. You have confused, defeated and destroyed your savagely fighting foe. On the road to victory you have endured every discomfort and privation and have surmounted every obstacle, ingenuity and desperation could throw in your path. You did not pause until our front was firmly joined up with the great Red Army coming from the East, and other Allied Forces, coming from the South. Full victory in Europe has been attained. Working and fighting together in a single and indestructible partnership you have achieved a perfection in unification of air, ground and naval power that will stand as a model in our time. The route you have travelled through hundreds of miles is marked by the graves of former comrades. From them have been exacted the ultimate sacrifice; blood of many nations- American, British, Canadian, French, Polish and others- has helped to gain the victory. Each of the fallen died as a member of the team to which you belong, bound together by a common love of liberty and a refusal to submit to enslavement. No monument of stone, no memorial of whatever magnitude could so well express our respect and veneration for their sacrifice as would perpetuation of the spirit of comradeship in which they died. As we celebrate Victory in Europe let us remind ourselves that our common problems of the immediate and distant future can be best solved in the same conceptions of co-operation and devotion to the cause of human freedom as have made this Expeditionary Force such a mighty engine of righteous destruction. Let us have no part in the profitless quarrels in which other men will inevitably engage as to what country, what service, won the European war. Every man, every woman, of every nation here represented, has served according to his or her ability, and the efforts of each have contributed to the outcome. This we shall remember- and in doing so we shall be revering each honored grave, and be sending comfort to the loved ones of comrades who could not live to see this day.

Dwight D. Eisenhower.



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Herbert Museum

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